

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230963

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BF

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION WITH UK ON FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS

REF: NASSAU 1539

1. FOLLOWING UP ON REFTTEL, SEPTEMBER 24 DEPTOFF TOLD UK FIRST SECRETARY DAVID WALKER THAT DEPARTMENT WELCOMES UK SUGGESTION OF CONSULTATIONS ON ANTICIPATED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BAHAMAS FOR CONTINUED ACCESS TO OUR MILITARY FACILITIES THERE. WALKER DID NOT APPEAR TO BE WELL INFORMED ON SUBJECT AND DID NOT ADD ANYTHING TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF UK POSITION. HE AGREED THAT BRITISH ACCESS TO AUTEC IS THEIR PRINCIPAL INTEREST AND READILY TOOK POINT THAT FAILURE OF EXPECTED US-GOCB TALKS WOULD RESULT IN LOSS OF ACCESS. HE WAS NOT FORTHCOMING ON SUBJECT OF 3.5 MILLION POUND UK "GIFT", BUT SEEMED TO APPRECIATE USEFULNESS OF COORDINATING OUR NEGOTIATING TACTICS IN AN EFFORT TO MAIN-
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TAIN JOINT USE OF AUTEC.

2. DEPTOFF EXPLAINED THAT WE EXPECT TO COMPLETE OUR REVIEW OF OUR NEGOTIATING POSITION BY MID OR LATTER PART OF OCTOBER AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DETAILED TALKS HERE WITH UK REPRESENTATIVES AT THAT TIME. HE AGREED TO CONVEY THIS POINT TO LONDON AND SAID HE WOULD KEEP US INFORMED OF UK REACTIONS.

3. DEPTOFF ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF NOT RPT NOT APPEARING TO GANG UP ON GOCB. WALKER AGREED THAT CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. KISSINGER

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